

Appn No. 10/815625
Amdt Dated: August 29, 2006
Response to Office Action of July 18, 2006

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the Office Action dated July 18, 2006.

Restrictions

A further search was conducted in respect of claims 1-24. The Applicant has amended his claims in view of prior art uncovered in this search.

With the amended claims filed herewith, the Applicant's traversal of the restriction requirement is maintained. It is submitted that all claims are linked by the subject-matter of claim 1. Accordingly, the Applicant reserves the right to rejoin withdrawn claims 25-55, pursuant to the provisions of MPEP 809.03, once allowable product claims have been determined during examination of claim 1-24.

Double Patenting

A terminal disclaimer is filed herewith, which disclaims the term of any patent granted from the present application extending beyond the term of any patent granted from copending US Application Nos. 10/815,624 and 10/815,628.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 1 and 13 have been amended to specify that the hydrophilic moiety is a selected from an ammonium group, an acid group (including salts thereof) or a sulfonamide group.

It is submitted that Albert fails to disclose an IR-absorbing dye, as now defined in either of claims 1 and 13. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to withdraw his rejection under 35 USC 102.

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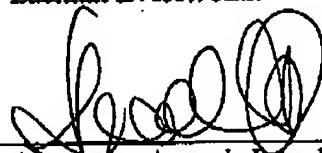
It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections have been successfully traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

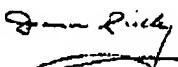
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